

# 2003 Report of Accomplishments

## Cowlitz Conservation District



### Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 - Summary

- *Enjoyed the completion of a project started in 1994 to improve fish passage on Monahan Creek in the Arkansas Creek Watershed. The project provides access to more than five miles of high quality habitat.*
- *Efforts in the Abernathy Creek Watershed have culminated into a project that will improve riparian conditions for seven owners over 4.5 miles of Abernathy Creek.*
- *Board and staff worked with Cowlitz County and local educators to design and fund a 4-year education project that will develop natural resource curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12 classes. The curriculum is will be designed to reach out to local landowners as another means to help put conservation on the ground.*



### Mission of the Cowlitz Conservation District

*The mission of the Cowlitz County Conservation District is to protect and improve the natural resources of the District and to guide resource development and use to provide the highest quality of life for present and future citizens.*

### Water Quality Implementation

- *Assisted 225 walk-in/call-in customers, conducted 52 field visits with landowners, prepared 13 conservation plans, and assisted eight landowners with cost share to improve natural resources.*
- *Continued to monitor stream and air temperature in priority watersheds to assist with the TMDL process. Thirty-two stream temperature sites and six air temperature sites were managed in Cowlitz County watersheds.*

### Basic Funding

*Cowlitz Conservation District uses its basic funding to assure continued service to citizens and to meet increasing obligations for political representation. This year, funding provided dues to WACD and NACD, allowed the board to participate in the state convention, and provided some overhead support. These activities directly support the districts capacity to put conservation on the ground by maintaining and improving the programs available through the district to assist landowners.*

### Local Funding

- *Six conservation easements were secured in the Abernathy Creek watershed. Permanent easements ranging from 50-200 feet were secured that will result in continuous riparian forest buffer on the lower 4.5 miles of Abernathy Creek. The County and District successfully partnered on a grant proposal to improve riparian conditions on each of the easements.*
- *Four local sponsors including the District joined together and received a grant award from Cowlitz County to develop a long term education program using Title III funds.*

### Professional Engineering

- *The District actively participated in the Southwest Engineering Cluster.*

## **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

- *Maintenance was conducted on two existing contract sites encompassing 15 acres. One site was replanted with approximately 1,500 trees and shrubs.*
  - *Met with one private landowner and the City of Kelso to discuss CREP opportunities. The City of Kelso has considered the program for a 20-acre site in the Coweeman River watershed.*
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## **Dairy**

- *Cost share and technical assistance was provided to one dairy resulting in implementation of best management practices necessary to implement their dairy nutrient management plan. The dairy nutrient management plan for this dairy has been certified by the District.*
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## **Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration**

- *Construction of the Monahan Creek fish passage improvement project was completed. This represents the completion of a project initiated in 1994 by the Conservation District. The project provides access to more than five miles of some of the best fish habitat in southwest Washington.*
  - *The District hosted watershed meetings in the Mill/Abernathy, Germany/Coal, Leckler/Whittle, Arkansas, Coweeman, Toutle, and Kalama watersheds. The meetings were designed as an informational series to discuss water quality and fish issues in local watersheds.*
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## **Small Farm Programs**

- *Virtually all work performed by the District with private landowners addresses issues with small-scale agriculture and silviculture. Technical assistance provided to 775 customers is largely funded through our water quality implementation fund and proceeds from our plant materials sale.*
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## **Community Collaboration & Coordination**

- *Participated in Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board technical advisory committee.*
  - *Hosted seven watershed meetings.*
  - *Collaborated with three other project sponsors to develop a single education/outreach program that was funded through Title III funding provided by Cowlitz County.*
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## **Information & Education**

- *Hosted plant materials sale and assisted 550 landowners with information regarding suitable uses of available native plant materials. Sold plant materials to eighty-three landowners for conservation purposes.*
- *Coordinated with local partners to publish and distribute the Back Acre Quarterly Newsletter.*
- *Participated in the regional and state Envirothon competitions.*
- *Coordinated activities in the natural resources building at the Cowlitz County Fair, and developed and presented a conservation display.*
- *Participated in the coordination of a local Earth Day celebration.*
- *Submitted news articles to the Grange News.*

## **Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices**

